

MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS

MARRIAGE RATE

There were 1870 marriages in Lancaster County in 1998. This translates into a rate of 7.9 per 1000 population. The Nebraska rate was 7.6 per 1000 in 1998. The marriage rates for Nebraska and Lancaster County have remained relatively stable for the past five years (Figure 19).

The most common months of marriage were August, May, and June respectively (Table 28).

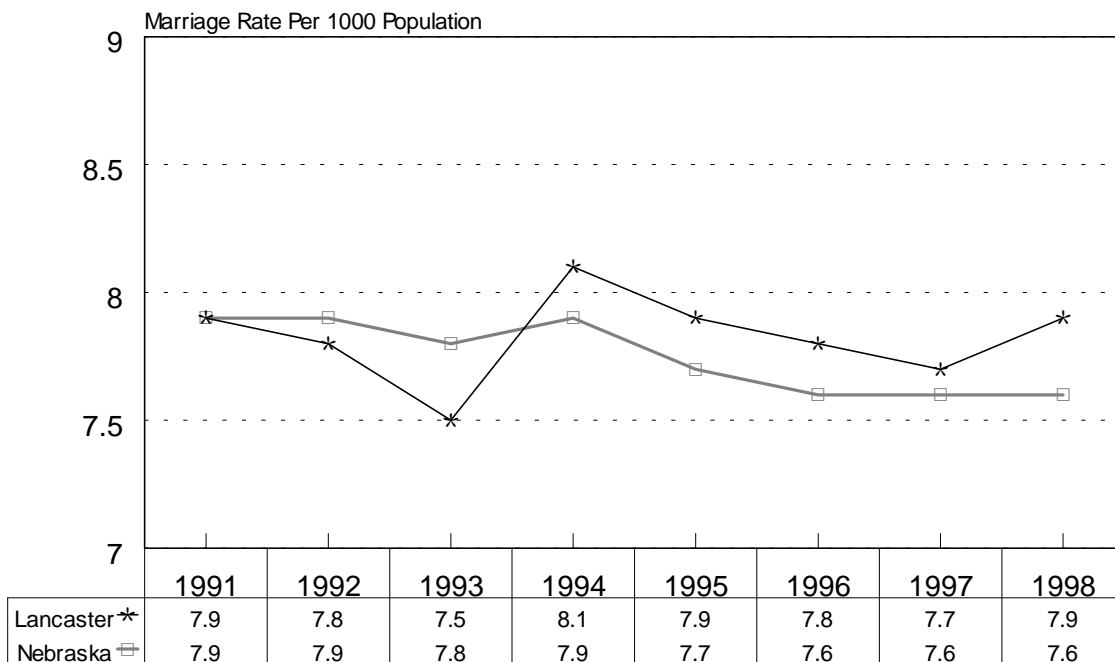
AGE AND RACE

In 1998, 1709 (91.4%) grooms and 1749 (93.5%) brides were White. The remaining 158 grooms and 118 brides were of other races. Three grooms and three brides did not report race (Table 29). In 1998, the mean (average) age for Lancaster County

TABLE 28.
Marriages by Month
Lancaster County, 1998

<u>Month</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	62	3.3
February	76	4.1
March	92	4.9
April	119	6.4
May	248	13.3
June	221	11.8
July	187	10.0
August	251	13.4
September	203	10.9
October	172	9.2
November	114	6.1
December	125	6.7
TOTAL	1870	100.0

Figure 19: Marriage Rate
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1998



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grooms was 31.2 years. The mean age for brides was 29.0 years.

The mean marriage age of White males and females was 31.2 and 29.1 years, respectively. The mean age for Black males and females was 31.4 and 30.2 years, respectively. The mean marriage age for American Indian males and females was 34.0 and 35.7, respectively. The mean marriage age was 30.4 for Asian males and 27.3 for Asian females.

EDUCATION

Grooms and brides had a mean education of 14.2 years or two years of education beyond high

school. The most frequent educational level was equivalent to a high school education (12 years).

DIVORCE RATE

The 1998 marriage/divorce ratio in Lancaster County was 1.8/1 (Table 30), indicating that there were 1.8 times as many marriages as divorces.

There were 1029 divorces in Lancaster County in 1998. This represents a rate of 4.4 per 1,000 population, a rate similar to those of the previous decade (Figure 20). The 1998 divorce rate for Nebraska was 3.6 per 1000 population.

Among males divorced in 1998, 67.2% were divorced for the first time, while among females, 65.2% were divorced for the first time.

AGE AND RACE

The average age of divorced males was 38.8 years and the average age of divorced females was 36.4 years. The median age of divorced males was 38.0 years, while the median age of divorced females was 36.0 years. The average age of first time divorced males and females was 36.1 and 34.0 years, respectively.

Of the divorces where race was reported in 1998, 93.4% of divorces involved White males and 95.5% of divorces involved White females. Marriage/divorce ratios ranged from 1.5 for Black males to 6.4 for Asian males (Table 30).

SETTLEMENT

In 1998, divorce settlements ranged from no settlement to alimony, child support, property, or a combination of settlements. Table 32 lists the types and frequencies of divorce settlements. Divorces most commonly involved property settlement only (39.3%) or property settlement and child support (34.3%).

TABLE 29.
Marriage by Sex and Race
Lancaster County, 1998

	<u>Males</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>%</u>
White	1709	91.4	1749	93.5
Black	85	4.5	44	2.4
Am. Indian	8	0.4	7	0.4
Asian	64	3.4	66	3.5
Other/Unk	4	0.2	4	0.2
TOTAL	1870	100.0	1870	100.0

TABLE 30.
Marriage/Divorce Ratio
Race of Male
Lancaster County, 1998

	<u>Number of</u> <u>Marriages/Divorces</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
White	1709/945	1.8/1
Black	85/55	1.5/1
Am Indian	8/2	4.0/1
Asian	64/10	6.4/1
Other	4/17	0.2/1
TOTAL	1870/1029	1.8/1

CHILDREN OF DIVORCE & CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS

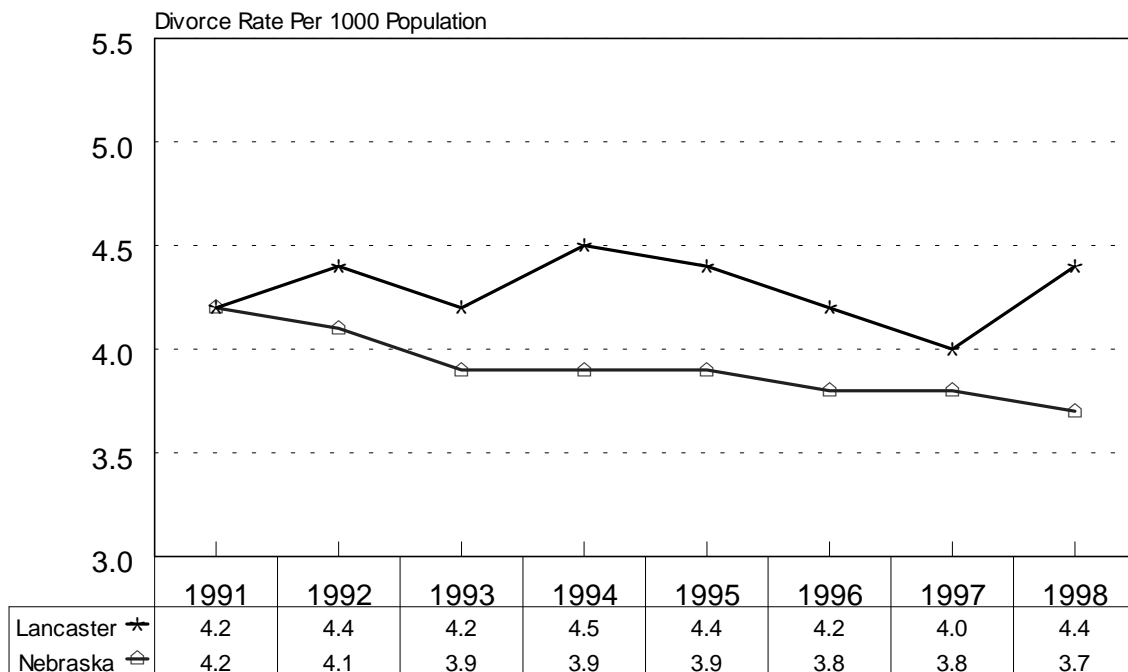
Of the 1029 divorces in 1998, 545 (53.0%) occurred in households with children under the age of 18. These divorces involved 976 children (0.9 children per divorce).

Of the 545 divorce settlements involving children during 1998, the divorced woman was awarded exclusive custody of all or

TABLE 31.
Number of Times Married At Time Of Divorce
Males and Females
Lancaster County, 1998

Times Married	Males	Percent	Females	Percent
1	692	67.2	671	65.2
2	237	23.0	229	22.3
3	63	6.1	82	8.0
4	7	0.7	14	1.4
5	3	0.3	7	0.7
6 or More	0	0.0	2	0.2
Not Classifiable	27	2.6	24	2.3
TOTAL	1029	100.0	1029	100.0

Figure 20: Divorce Rate
Lancaster County and Nebraska
1991 to 1998



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

some children in 424 (77.9%) of the cases.

Divorced men were awarded exclusive custody of some or all children in 55 (10.1%) of these divorces.

In 63 (11.6%) of divorces, joint custody was awarded for some of all of the children. In 3 (0.6%) of divorces, some or all children were awarded to a party other than the divorced man or woman.

TABLE 32.
Types of Settlements
Lancaster County, 1998

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
None	99	9.6
Alimony Only	1	0.1
Child Support Only	55	5.3
Property Settlement Only	404	39.3
Alimony and Child Support	5	0.5
Alimony and Property Settlement	55	5.3
Child Support and Property Settlement	353	34.3
Alimony, Child Support, & Property	57	5.5
TOTAL	1029	100.0